

## **Virginia's NGA STEM Center Grant Implementation and Timeline September 7, 2007**

Virginia has received a \$500,000 grant from the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices to improve science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education. The STEM center grants have been awarded as part of NGA Chair Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano's Innovation America initiative. In addition to Virginia, Colorado, Hawaii, Minnesota, Ohio, and Pennsylvania have also been awarded STEM grants, which are made possible by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Intel Foundation.

### **Purpose**

This grant will provide for the development of **Governor's Career and Technical Academies** and the **Governor's Exemplary Standards Award Program for Career and Technical Education**. The purpose of these academies and the Exemplary Standards Program is to develop model programs in career and technical education (CTE) that will expand options for the general population of students to acquire STEM literacy and other critical knowledge, skills and credentials to prepare them for high-demand, high-skill and high-wage careers in Virginia. These programs will be partnerships of public schools, business and industry, community colleges and universities, and local government, including regional workforce and economic development officials.

### **Implementation**

Two initiatives will be implemented with funds from the NGA grant and matching funds from the Workforce Investment Act:

- ◆ Up to six **Governor's Career and Technical Academies** will be established. Academies will offer career pathways addressing both immediate regional skill gaps and longer-term STEM-related strategic gaps for Virginia. Academies will be required to meet criteria established by the Virginia Board of Education for Governor's Career and Technical Academies. The Board is in the process of developing these criteria, with approval anticipated by November 2007. It is anticipated that the process will be similar to that already established for the creation of a Governor's School. This process may be found on the Department of Education's Web site at: <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/Govschools/boeaygsprocess.pdf>.

Additional criteria specific to the Academy concept may also be required. For example, approved programs must agree to participate in the Exemplary Standards Award Program (see next bullet.) This program will require a local/regional industry-led team to validate that a program has met the rigorous criteria for the awards, before the program can apply to receive this designation.

All academies will be partnerships of business and industry, public school divisions, community colleges and where applicable universities, and workforce and economic development entities. Fiscal agents will be a designated public entity.

Additional information about the Governor's Career and Technical Academies, as well as a Request for Proposals (RFP) to apply for a Planning and Implementation Grant will be released via Superintendent's Memorandum on September 28, 2007. Grants in the amount of \$120,000 will be available to be awarded as follows: \$20,000 awarded for planning and \$100,000 awarded for implementation after approval by the Board of Education as an Academy.

Proposals will be due to the Department of Education on November 9, 2007. **A technical assistance meeting to discuss innovative options for the Academies and to respond to questions about the RFP will be held on October 3, 2007, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at Virginia Commonwealth University in the Virginia Ballroom of the University Student Commons at 907 Floyd Avenue, Richmond, Virginia. Representatives from proposed partnerships must pre-register for the technical assistance meeting by**

**September 26, 2007.** The registration form and directions to the meeting site are available on the Internet at <http://www.education.virginia.gov/Initiatives/CareerAndTechnicalEd/>.

- ♦ A **Governor's Exemplary Standards Award Program for Career and Technical Education** will be created to establish a high standard for CTE programs. This program will be a continuous quality improvement process engaging K-12 and higher education, the business community and state, regional and local officials. The opportunity to earn this distinction will create an incentive for programs to meet high academic standards and improve other measures of program quality, strengthen their partnerships and alignment with postsecondary education and industry, and demonstrate relevant and positive outcomes. Eligible applicants will include public schools, community colleges and universities. The Virginia Career Education Foundation (VCEF) will administer the Exemplary Standards Award program.

## Timeline

### Governor's Career and Technical Academies

Date	Activity
September 28, 2007	RFP for a Planning and Implementation Grant for a Governor's Career and Technical Academy released via Superintendent's Memorandum
October 3, 2007	Pre-proposal technical assistance meeting held for interested parties, 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., at Virginia Commonwealth University in the Virginia Ballroom of the University Student Commons at 907 Floyd Avenue, Richmond, VA. <b>Participants must <u>pre-register</u> by September 26, 2007.</b> For directions and pre-registration information, go to <a href="http://www.education.virginia.gov/Initiatives/CareerAndTechnicalEd/">http://www.education.virginia.gov/Initiatives/CareerAndTechnicalEd/</a>
October 15, 2007	Intent to Submit Form due to the Department of Education
November 9, 2007	One original and five (5) copies of the Planning and Implementation Grant proposals due to the Department of Education by 4 p.m.
November 2007	Board of Education adopts criteria for Governor's Academies for Career and Technical Education
December 2007	Up to Six Planning and Implementation Grants Awarded
No later than May 1, 2008	Grant recipients submit Governor's Academy plans to the Department of Education for review and submission to the Board of Education for approval
2008-2009 Academic Year	Up to six Governor's Academies for Career and Technology are operational

### Governor's Exemplary Standards Program

On August 23, 2007, a statewide advisory group began the process of developing these standards based on an existing rubric from the National Dissemination Center for Career and Technical Education. Local school divisions implementing these standards will be able to submit applications to the Virginia Career Education Foundation in June 2008 to be evaluated for Exemplary Standards Awards.

## Contact Information

- ♦ For additional information about the **Governor's Career and Technical Academies**, please contact Ms. Elizabeth Russell, director, Office of Career and Technical Education, Virginia Department of Education, at (804) 225-2847 or [Elizabeth.Russell@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Russell@doe.virginia.gov).
- ♦ For additional information about the **Governor's Exemplary Standards Award Program for Career and Technical Education**, please contact Dr. Emily Richardson, at (804) 615-1505 or [vcef@cox.net](mailto:vcef@cox.net).